

Today

Don't Stir Up Labor.
English Lords Best Investment.
No Torture for Lady Drinker.
Jerusalem Too Small for Jews.

A lady guilty of drunkenness in "dry" Washington was sent to jail for thirty days. "She would not tell where she got the whiskey." Observe that it is always "WHISKEY" in "dry" places. It is easy to drive out the harmless light stimulants, but whiskey STAYS.

A while ago, before the French revolution diminished the power of the ruling classes, they would have forced this whiskey drinking lady to tell where she got the whiskey by applying torture until she did tell. A few turns of a thumb-screw would have sufficed. We have improved somewhat; we no longer torture human beings to make them confess.

When revolution ended torture of witnesses, leading citizens said "that will mean an end of justice, anarchy will come. How can you get facts if you don't torture witnesses?"

Two thousand years earlier the greatest Greek said that end of slavery would mean end of civilization, since without slaves there would be no leisure class to do the thinking.

But courts do get testimony without torture. Public education has increased respect for justice.

And we still have a leisure class—too much of a leisure class—plenty of time for those that want to think, and without slavery. Machines do well the work that slaves did badly.

A little increase in the power of thought, a little decrease in the power of selfishness, and the steel, iron, steam and electric slaves of this day would give leisure to every man and woman and child. That leisure will come some day, when human beings learn how to give each man what he NEEDS, distributing the rest among the others.

Jerusalem, conquered, will go back to ownership of the Jews. But the Jews, fortunately for the world, will not go back to Jerusalem—they have important work to do elsewhere.

Some will return, the deeply religious, and find intense happiness in returning. But the average energetic Jew, like the average energetic Irishman, Scotchman, Italian, and Frenchman, knows that the entire earth is the field of every intelligent man upon the earth.

The Scotchman doesn't return to the bleak hills over which his ancestors roamed bare-legged. The Irishman does not return—except as a sightseer—to the peace and quiet of the little soft green field, the cabin and the stone wall of his great-grandfather.

The modern Jew will visit Jerusalem—a little later in his flying machine—and then return to do his work elsewhere.

In Russia he will fight to make democracy real. In America he will continue his share of building this great republic's prosperity.

In music and painting, in literature, in the drama he will continue his work all over the world—not huddled up within the old walls of Jerusalem.

"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." The earth is also man's, and the property of man. All men will occupy it, improve it, compete in demonstration of their various racial powers. Ultimately all races will become welded into one great world-possessing, homogeneous race, free of hatreds, prejudices, animosities—and that will be the beginning of real civilization which is still removed from this earth by thousands of years.

Gladys Vanderbilt is a United States "foe" because she is married to a Hungarian, Count Szechenyi. Now she is probably singing the old song, "Oh, little did my mother think when first she cradled me," etc. And more interesting, the sister-in-law of Ambassador Gerard is also a "foe." She married Count Anton Sigray von Felsö, also a Hungarian.

Strictly interpreted, the law will not allow these "alien enemy" ladies to go near the water front or live in Washington, D. C.

Moral: If you must acquire a nobleman, buy an English one. It may be less romantic and more expensive, but it is safer.

The country depends largely upon contented labor. Organized labor has a great deal to say as to labor's contentment.

Honorable judges should think over carefully any important decisions antagonistic to labor during the war.

All kinds of decisions will come AFTER the war, for capital will need a good deal of help in the line of reconstruction, and capital's first constructive idea is always CHEAPER MEN.

For the present, decisions from judges and statements by important public men, questioning, denying, or limiting the right of men to organize for self-defense might do considerable harm.

These words are addressed to all courts, big or little.

Steady England. They do not stir up labor over there.

WEATHER:
CLOUDY
TODAY,
SNOW
THURSDAY

NUMBER 10,375.

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U. S. PATROL BOAT SUNK OFF ATLANTIC PORT

OPEN SEASON FOR INQUIRIES BY CONGRESS IS AT HAND

Members, Prodded By Constituents, Will Investigate What Administration's War Machine Is Doing.

By DAVID LAWRENCE.
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Investigation season is on in earnest.

Quietly and without much rumpus Congress has decided to find out for itself whether the war machine of the United States is moving as fast as it should.

Fundamentally the motive is patriotic—both Democrats and Republicans want to know, the country has been kept too much in the dark and members are merely reflecting a nation-wide inquisitiveness on whether efficiency or inefficiency reigns in Washington and whether any remedy can be applied before the pathetic cry of "too late" so often heard in England is repeated in America.

May Become Embarrassing.
But while the object is constructive and not destructive, nevertheless there is partisanship enough on Capitol Hill to embarrass the Administration. If the inquiry isn't confined to the food control situation, as it can be judged from what members say, the investigation being conducted by the Senate Military Affairs Committee has nothing personal in it. No such confidence prevails as to the purpose of the proposed quiz into the affairs of Herbert C. Hoover and Harry W. Ladd, food and fuel administrators, respectively.

Criticism of Hoover.
Those Senators who were opposed to Mr. Hoover when the food control bill was before the Senate are already saying the Food Administration hasn't come up to expectation. That is literally true, because the same Senators expected it to be a failure and quite the reverse has happened.

The Food Administration has little to fear from an inquiry. Its greatest accomplishment has been to check rising prices and to exercise a degree of control which while unpleasant and drastic, nevertheless has eliminated speculation and prevented food riots in America.

As for the Fuel Administration, its troubles have been cumulative. With the shortage of coal, it has been heart-breaking to learn that thousands of tons of coal are on sidings unable to move, scores of mine owners are practically calling for cars to haul the coal to consumer and the latter is, in many parts of the country, shivering because of the general confusion.

Transportation at Fault.
Probably in the end it will be found that the break-down in the nation's transportation facilities, for which no particular individual was responsible, had as much to do with the coal crisis as any other factor.

The Fuel Administration, however, will be able to withstand the attack in Congress though the investigation may conceivably provide a stimulus for prompt action on the railroad situation.

The inquiry into War Department affairs promises to be most comprehensive. There is a good deal more impatience and restlessness over the War Department than any other branch wheel of the Government. This is due to the many unprecedented but nevertheless essential steps taken by this department in interference with the normal activities of the country.

Draft Cuts Industries.
The selective draft has cut hard into several industries. Commissioners have been awarded to some who didn't deserve them and withheld from many who should have been given them. This is a natural outgrowth of the haste with which the Government has tried to change from a peace to a war basis.

Senators and Representatives have heard from home about conditions in cantonments. The absence of luxuries and the natural hardships of camp life have been confused in many cases with justifiable complaints of a lack of equipment, but on the whole there would have been little impetus behind a Congressional inquiry if the War Department had been able to satisfy the demands of members for information.

Much hiding behind the shield of the censorship, much evasion and red tape has given the impression of inefficiency.

Congress Is Not Prejudiced.
Congress isn't prejudiced in the case, but when certain Senators learn that there are difficulties in supplying the American army with ordnance, all the

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An Anonymous Gift of Five Hundred Dollars

Another Contribution Toward the Fund for the War Sufferers.

From a man who does not want his name published, a New Yorker temporarily residing in Washington, we receive the following letter enclosing check for Five Hundred Dollars.

My Dear Mr. Brisbane:
Temporarily resident in Washington, I wish to make my small contribution to the fund for the war sufferers in Europe, and enclose my check for Five Hundred Dollars to your order. Please see that it reaches the treasurer of the fund as a contribution from one of your friends, and without mentioning my name.
Sincerely yours,

COAL INQUIRY TO EMBRACE CAPITAL

Congressional investigation of the coal situation in the District is likely to become an important part of the inquiry into the coal and sugar shortage ordered by the Lodge resolution adopted by the Senate yesterday.

The inquiry will be made by the Senate Committee on Manufactures and will be national in scope. It undoubtedly will take cognizance of the coal situation here, inasmuch as members have first opportunity for investigation here, and are familiar with the inability of many Washingtonians to get coal despite the efforts and promises of the Fuel Administration. Legislation will be recommended if needed.

Will Push Inquiry.
Senator "Jim" Reed of Missouri, chairman of the Manufactures Committee, will push the investigation. Senator Reed opposed the food control law in the first place, and it is a safe conjecture that he will not rest content until he finds out why the country and particularly Washington is suffering for lack of coal and sugar. Many Senators believe that Dr. Garfield has attempted to regulate rather than administer the coal business, and they want more forceful action.

The fuel administration has been directing distribution of free coal, and is now checking all free coal of the various producing companies to determine the maximum amount available. It is directing distribution of this supply as fast as contracts expire, or in supervising new contracts. It

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FORM OF RAILROAD CONTROL WILL BE SETTLED TODAY

Plans for wartime control of railroads will probably be accomplished before night.

With the railroad war board scheduled to see President Wilson, and with the brotherhood chiefs in town, it appeared likely that definite methods of unified operation would be devised.

The President will then be ready within a short time to advise Congress of his desires as to this vital project. As affairs now are shaping, it appears likely that the Government railroad dictator—perhaps Secretary of Interior Lane—will be appointed to run the lines. He would have power to pool the lines and their equipment; to eliminate unessential schedules; and so direct finances that the railroads at the end of his tenure would be on a sounder basis than before.

However, both the railroad war board and the brotherhoods intend to impress upon the President their view that private control, with a single head, can accomplish desired war efficiency, provided the Government lends a hand in strengthening the roads' finances. The President himself has been non-committal thus far, though the general impression is that he is favorable to whatever suggestions the Government control idea.

Congress as a whole appears sympathetic to such a solution of the railroad problem, but will be amenable to whatever suggestions the President may make.

ONE DEAD AS BLAST AND FIRE WRECK WAR PLANT

Trolley Delay Probably Saved Hundreds of Workmen From Injury in Big Delaware Munitions Factory.

WILMINGTON, Del., Dec. 12.—An explosion in a loading room of one of the buildings of the Bethlehem Steel Company's munitions plant which was felt eighteen miles away, set fire to a portion of the establishment early today and threatened to cause heavy damage.

One man was killed. Five were injured.

Because of delayed trolley cars, hundreds of men, usually at work at the hour of the explosion, had not arrived when the blow-up occurred. The flames were extinguished at noon and an immediate investigation was begun by Superintendent Parry.

Police Chief Killed.

Chief of Police Jacobson, of the plant, was the only man killed. He was carrying a case of shells which was blowing from the plant when it exploded, blowing his head off.

The explosion followed a fire in the melting room of the three-inch projectile loading house. Only ten men were employed there and they fled from behind their protecting barriers to safety.

The fire occurred during the melting of T. N. T., a powerful explosive of tarlike consistency that is required before being placed in shells. It burned so slowly that most of the workmen escaped before the explosion.

The flames exploded hundreds of loaded projectiles stored in the room, and a barrage of shell fragments and shrapnel drove fire fighters and others half a mile away to safety zones. Some of the shrapnel bombarded houses in Dornelville, a mile distant from the plant.

The Bethlehem Steel Company's plant at Newcastle was established immediately following the outbreak of the war. It cost about \$1,000,000 and was started for the purpose of filling foreign contracts. The plant is composed of several large buildings, situated on the Delaware river, and covers nearly five acres. Nearly 1,800 are employed, mostly men.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON D. C. BUDGET IS ANNOUNCED

The District of Columbia subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee was designated at a meeting of the Appropriations Committee today. It consists of Congressmen Sisson, McAndrews, Gallivan, Davis and Hawney. Mr. Sisson will be chairman of the subcommittee.

This subcommittee will be in charge of the District appropriation bill.

The new members are Messrs. Sisson, Gallivan, and Hawney. They take the place of Congressmen Page of North Carolina, who was chairman last session, and Howard of Georgia and Slemo of Virginia.

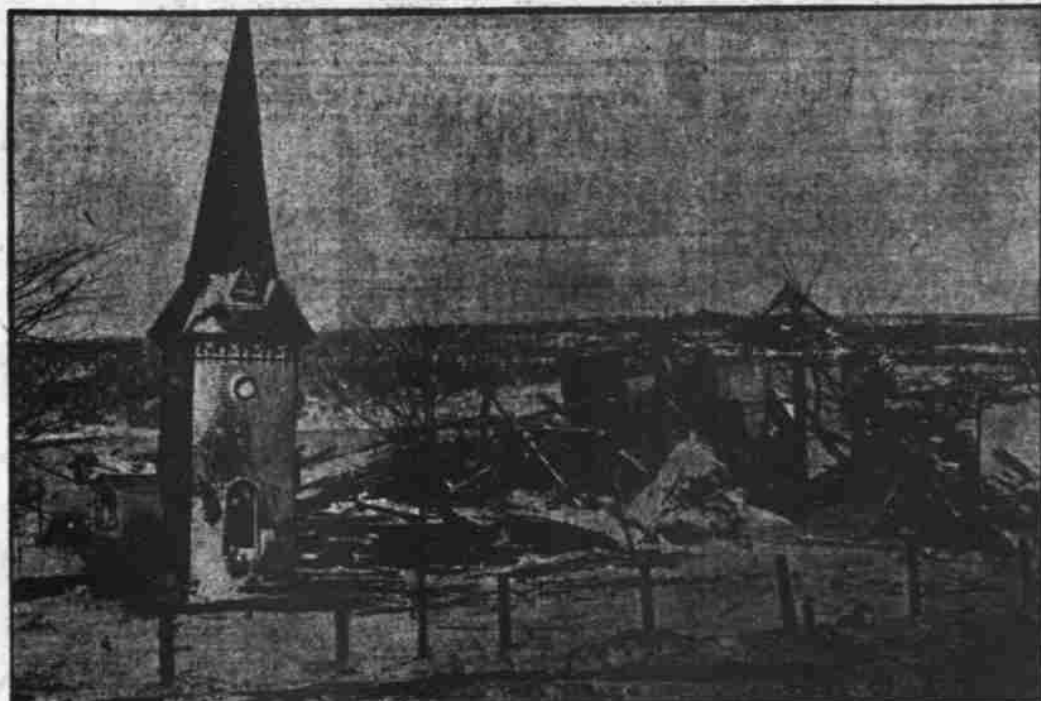
COMMITTEE APPROVES 'GARABED' RESOLUTION
The "Garabed" resolution giving the United States Government the use of the alleged world revolutionizing discovery by the Boston Armenian, Garabed Gragossian, was unanimously approved by the House Patents Committee today. It will be reported to the House tomorrow, probably with request for action before the Christmas holidays.

Supporters of Garabed planned to rush investigation of its practicability that it may be applied to the war at once if found feasible.

AN ATLANTIC PORT, Dec. 12.—A United States patrol boat has been sunk off here in collision with two other vessels, the identity of which has not yet been established. Wireless dispatches received here stated that the crew of the patrol vessel was saved and a great deal of her equipment removed before she sank. Only the most meager details of the collision were contained in the radio message telling of the disaster.

Halifax As It Looks After the Explosion

More of These Photographs on Page Seven.



This was one of the freak results of the explosion, the church being completely demolished, but the steeple was left practically intact.

85-MILE GALE SWEEPING HALIFAX; LOOTERS SHOT

ST. JOHNS, N. B., Dec. 12.—An eighty-five-mile gale has been sweeping the northeastern coast for twenty-four hours. Today it was estimated 1,000 herring nets and many fishing boats had been destroyed. Many buildings along the shore were damaged. During the storm the thermometer dropped to zero.

Fifteen hundred men, women, and children died in the Halifax disaster, wireless messages announce officially today. A big percentage of the dead have not been identified.

MEANS' DEFENSE SUFFERS REVERSE; ARGUMENT BEGINS

COURT HOUSE, CONCORD, N. C., Dec. 12.—With the defense fighting bitterly, the trial of Gaston B. Means, charged with the murder of Mrs. Maude A. King, today went to argument.

The defense made a grand play at the closing of the evidence to recoup much lost ground. Attorney Frank Armfield, for the defense, filed a motion to strike out the testimony of eleven of the State's witnesses relative to the financial dealings of the defendant.

PRESIDENT CUTS ALCOHOL IN DRINK TO 23-4 PER CENT

President Wilson today issued a proclamation limiting the alcoholic content of malt liquors, excepting ale and porter, as predicted in The Times yesterday, to 23 per cent.

He also ordered that the total amount of food, fruit, and feed materials used shall not exceed 70 per cent of their average consumption in the production of malt liquor during 1917.

No person will be permitted after January 1 to produce malt liquor without a license from the commissioner of internal revenue. The license will compel the brewer to comply with rules and regulations to be promulgated.

To import liquor a license from the division of customs of the Treasury Department will be necessary. It will bind the holder to any import regulations which may be promulgated.

U. S. TO BUILD BARGES.

The Shipping Board today launched a new program that calls for the building of large fleets of barges and tugs to ply inland waterways.

Looters Shot.

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia, Dec. 12.—With the city under absolute martial law, the American hospital and relief units found it less difficult today than formerly in rendering succor to the ill and wounded from the zone laid waste by last week's explosion.

Several persons, it is reported, have been shot for looting. Only one is known officially. The looter in question, was shot and his body was strapped to a post. Over the head was placed a placard bearing the words:

"This was a looter."

Military officials declined to comment on the report of others who have been dealt with in the same manner. Hundreds of persons who barely escaped with their lives are today being equipped with fresh clothing to replace the burned and tattered garments they have been forced to wear since the explosion.

Many Blinded.
American surgeons are still picking glass from the eyes of many people who suffered when the window glass in their homes was shattered by the explosion. Many of them will be marked or blind for life, the physicians say.

An official report of the physicians is to the effect that there are more wounds from glass than any other one cause.

Five little children in a single ward are reported half blind, and the specialists are working hard to save their eyesight.

Many Telegrams Arrive.
Telegrams continue to pour in from the United States asking about relatives or friends, but on account of the limited telegraphic service, not one-tenth of them have been answered.

A relayed cable message from London announces that King George has contributed \$5,000 to the lord mayor's relief fund for Halifax; the Prince of Wales \$1,000 and the lord mayor and lady mayors 150 guineas.

The group of Dartmouth men who yesterday boarded a steamship that stood in the harbor here and extinguished a fire that threatened to cause an explosion and inflict further damage to the stricken city are today being hailed as heroes. The crew of the vessel abandoned her when flames leaped from her superstructure. The ship is said to have been loaded with munitions.

Schenectady Has Xmas Plan.

Congressman Lunn, of New York, mayor of Schenectady, announced that his city has inaugurated a movement that he hopes will be taken up by other cities. Schenectady will present to Halifax as a Christmas present a fund sufficient to rebuild one of the homes destroyed in the recent fire and explosion. He suggests that other cities raise funds with which to build one or more houses in the stricken zones and restore them to their former owners.

MORE THAN 5-10 PER CENT INCREASE FOR CLERKS URGED

Impetus was given the fight for an increase in pay for Federal employees in excess of the present 5 and 10 per cent raise, by the adoption last night of resolutions by the Chamber of Commerce and the Retail Merchants' Association. An identical resolution framed by Isaac Gans for both organizations, was unanimously adopted, as follows:

"Be it resolved, That the Chamber of Commerce (Retail Merchants' Association) not only urges the fairness of the allowance of the increased percentage heretofore granted by Congress to Federal clerks up to \$1,800, but that this association favors a larger proportion of increase in the salaries, and that also the increase be extended up to and including \$2,400 for all those who were employed by the Government prior to January 1, 1917."

Gans' Statement.

Mr. Gans, who has long been identified with all movements for the betterment of the Government employees' condition, said to The Times today: "For years I have fought for an increase in pay for all Federal and District employees. As everybody knows, the cost of living has advanced steadily in recent years to the point where no clerk in the Government service can live on the pay he or she receives. It is high time the Government recognized this fact."

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JACOB JONES TORPEDOED AFTER TARGET PRACTICE

Admiral Sims advised the Navy Department today that the destroyer Jacob Jones had been torpedoed following target practice.

This may indicate that the vessel had gone a considerable distance from the usual submarine paths, and that for this reason had considered herself practically safe.

GERMANS' BLOW MAY STRIKE AT SAMMIES

Situation Presents Greater Strategic Possibilities for the Enemy Than Elsewhere on Long Front.

BULLETIN — Four Austro-German divisions were virtually exterminated in the recent Italian battle between Brenna and the Piave river, official Rome cables today stated.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES IN THE FIELD, Dec. 12.—Long lines of rail transports literally swarming with German reinforcements were seen behind German lines on the northern British flank of the Cambrai sector.

America's battlefield in France may be the mysterious objective for which Germany is massing new troops in the west.

No other part of the allies' line from the North sea to Switzerland presents such strategic possibilities to the Germans. It is now known that the American troops are facing the Germans within artillery range of the Lorraine border.

At the same time Switzerland's exchange of communications with America concerning assurance that American troops will not trespass on Swiss territory, strongly suggests that Alsace, bordering Switzerland, is also within the American war lines.

May Center on This Front.

The Alsace-Lorraine front, therefore, will probably be afire with some of the most intense activity of the war when America's major offensive begins. This front is dangerously near German territory in Lorraine and passes directly into Germany in southern Alsace.

There can be little doubt of the depression to German morale that would result from a quick advance by the Americans through Lorraine and Alsace toward the Rhine.

May Prompt Early Attack.

To attempt to prevent a maneuver of this character the Germans may be planning an early attack in Alsace and Lorraine before the Americans are fully ready. In reality such a movement would be a defensive offensive designed to throw back the present French lines and compel the Americans to make a longer journey before reaching Germany.

There is little reason to believe, however, that a German attack in Alsace or Lorraine would be more successful than along any other part of the western front.

Predict Second Verdun.
A second Verdun might well ensue for the German crown prince. In fact, any offensive tactics employed by the Germans in the west will probably work to the advantage of America's strategy by depleting still further Germany's war-making power.

Yet if the Germans can persuade the Austro-Hungarians to donate men for the slaughter, Alsace-Lorraine will probably see von Hindenburg taking a chance. The American trenches are too near German soil for the Kaiser's comfort.

ALL INDICATIONS POINT TO GERMAN PREPARATION FOR GIGANTIC THRUST

LONDON, Dec. 12.—The German high command is feverishly hastening its preparations for some great stroke on the western front.

Dispatches today reported vast forces being massed day and night at various points along the Franco-British line. More German airplanes than have been seen in months have been aggressively seeking to spy out British positions, batteries, munitions dumps, and supply stations. Unusual raiding activity, part of the same effort to obtain information as to strength of front positions, developed all along the line.

A perceptible lessening of pressure on the Italian front was reported today. It served to confirm belief here in London that considerable forces of Austro-Hungarian troops had been switched from that theater to the west. Great numbers of the Emperor Carl's troops are reported already there, having been transferred from the Russian lines.

The artillery duel along both French and British fronts today was attaining a maximum of violence. The